JUST IN FUN

Good Morning!

An American travelling in Italy on behalf of his Government stopped at a small inn for the night and instructed the native courier who accompanied him to enter his name in accordance with the local police regulations. Later in the evening he asked the servant if he had complied with his orders.

"Yes," was the reply.

"How did you write my name?" asked the American.

"Well, Signor, I can't pronounce it," was the reply, "but I copied it from your portmanteau."

The American could not remember having affixed his name to his luggage, but, being very tired, decided not to press the matter. The next morning he saw the light, when upon coming downstairs he was greeted by the desk clerk with "Good morning, Signor Warranted Solid Leather."

A Bit Confused

The learned counsel glared at the witness.

"Are you positive, sir," he demanded, "that the prisoner is the man who stole your car?"

"Well," answered the witness, "I was until you cross-examined me. Now I'm not sure whether I ever had a car at all."

HOLD EVERYTHING

"Thanks for the lift home, Zeke!"

Old Fashioned

When it comes to salaries, too many of us believe that the majority of our schoolteachers are still holding forth in the little red schoolhouse.

—Christian Science Monitor.

Now He Knows

A fond mother received the following letter from her son:—

"Dear Mum—I joined the Navy because I liked the way the ships were kept so clean and tidy. But I never knew until this week who keeps them so clean and tidy.—Love, Jimmy."

Turning Over the Helm

Said Mr. Hobson: "A baby's troublesome, that's true; but remember the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

Replied his wife: "Well, then, suppose you assume world dominion for the evening while I go to the cinema."

Works Both Ways

The little moppet upon going to bed always insisted that her bedroom door remain open. "Is it because you want to let the light in?" asked her mother. "No," came the amazing response, "it's to let out the dark."

Important Role

Sammy: "Mother, we're playing we're elephants in the park. Please come."

Mother: "What can I do?"

Sammy: "You can be the lady that feeds candy and peanuts to the elephants."

Discussion on Cheese

A reader reasonably asks: "Why is it that Swiss cheese has all the holes when limburger needs the ventilation so badly?"

Appropriate?

"You've been tearing about at fifty miles an hour, miss, and I'll have to report you. What's your name?"

"Prudence."

Canny Laddie

A Scotsman entered a bank and asked if he could borrow a dollar for a year; the bank official thought the request unusual but agreed provided he could furnish some security. The Scotsman said all he had was a $1,000 savings bond. So the transaction was made. At the end of the year our friend the Scotsman returned and paid back the dollar also seven cents interest on the loan, receiving his savings bond in exchange. After the business was completed the bank official, pent up with curiosity, asked why the man insisted on such a strange transaction.

"Sir," said the Scotsman, "I have visited all the banks in your city and each one asked five dollars a year rent for a safety deposit box in which to keep my savings bond—this way I had it taken care of for a mere seven cents."

DID YOU EVER SEE A HORSE DO THIS?

Down in New Zealand horses do funny things. These lazy beasts sit on their haunches most of the dey at a ranch near Te Awamutu.

To Build World's Largest Pipeline In Saudi Arabia

American oil companies have holdings in Canada, Venezuela, Argentina, Colombia, Peru, Hungary, Rumania, Netherlands East Indies, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The last is one of the most important, says the New York Times.

Saudi Arabia contains 5,250,000 nomadic people, 610,000 square miles (twice as large as Texas), mostly of desert and oases—and under them vast reservoirs of oil which some estimate as equalling the United States reserve of 20 million barrels.

In 1933 the Texas Company and Standard Oil of California bought from King Ibn Saud a concession to exploit the country's oil resources. Their jointly owned Arabian-American Oil Company has recently picked up such momentum that since 1943 production has multiplied ten times, to 73,000,000 barrels a year. At Dhahran on the Persian Gulf Coast, every drilling in the past year has brought in a gusher. The chief brake on even larger output has been limited shipping to take the oil out of Arabia to world markets.

Last week plans were set for construction in Saudi Arabia of the world's largest pipeline.

300,000 Barrels Daily

The new line will be 30 inches in diameter, about 1,200 miles long, with at least 300,000 barrels daily capacity. (Big Inch, from Texas to the United States East Coast, is 1,254 miles but only 24 inches in diameter, with 250,000 barrels capacity.) It will run from Dhahran northwestward through Trans-Jordan to a Syrian port on the Mediterranean. On westward shipments it will save 3,500 miles.

When the pipeline is completed about 1950, Saudi Arabia will have yearly production of at least 110,000,000 barrels of oil. It will then rank fifth in world oil production, behind the United States (1,711,000,000), Venezuela (323,000,000), Russia (149,000,000) and Iran (129,000,000). For every barrel taken out of Saudi Arabia, Ibn Saudi will, by terms of the concession, be paid 23 cents.

Special Uniforms

Canadian Boy Scouts may soon be wearing a new style winter uniform instead of the traditional shorts and shirt but tradional garb is not being discarded completely, said Maj.-Gen. D. C. Pry, chief commissioner for the Canadian Boy Scout Association. The traditional shorts and shirt, worn by scouts of 51 nations, would only give way in the winter months to something more suitable for the climate, he said.

MOUTHFUL

Sandra Lee Evans of Columbus, O., is 11 months old—and she's cutting teeth numbers 17 and 18. Most babies have 8 or 9 teeth at 17 months, about 20 at 30 months.

Why Alberta Gets Spring in Winter

The Chinook is a peculiar "animile" whose habitat is Southwestern Alberta. It appears in Winter when it is very welcome. It comes, too, in Summer, when it is one of those very unwelcome hot winds which wither crops in 48 hours if they haven't a lot of moisture at their roots, relates the Lethbridge Herald.

It's in Winter, of course, that we brag about our Chinook wind. It may be 40 below in the morning and 40 above by mid-afternoon. Not long ago the mercury here went from 34 below zero to 40 above with 36 hours while the rest of the Prairie West was left shivering. It's little wonder we boast.

Last week we had a Chinook. Before it got under way in all its glory and vigor South Alberta's foothill range country was largely covered with snow, and ranchers were worrying whether they would have enough feed to carry their cattle through till Spring. The Chinook wiped the snow out within four days, and the cattle left the valleys and took to the hills, where the range grass, cured last fall, was waiting for them just as, before the white man, it waited for the buffalo.

The result is that the ranchers have been given a breather, and they will be hopeful now of grazing for the rest of the Winter so that their disappearing hay supplies will be saved for use during possible Spring blizzards.

* * *

Men of the meteorological services and scientific experts do not always agree about the Chinook. Where does it come from and how does it get to prairie level after apparently coming across the mountains at 10,000 to 15,000 feet? We learned in our high school physics classes that air when heated rises and cold air flows in to take its place. But the Chinook appears to operate in reverse. Here is warm air coming down from above to displace the heavier frigid air. What has happened to our physics in that case?

Chinook, the Encyclopaedia Britannica tells us, "is a name given to a wind which blows from west or north over the Rocky Mountains, where it descends as a dry wind, warm in Winter and cool in Summer. It is due to a cyclone passing northward, and continues for a few hours to several days. It moderates the climate of the eastern Rockies, the snow melting quickly on account of its warmth and vanishing on account of its dryness, so that it is said to 'lick up' the snow from the slopes."

In the same authority we learn that Chinook is the name of a tribe of Indians who held the area along the mouth of the Columbia river in Oregon, and as the Chinook comes from that general direction we suppose that's where the wind got its name. At any rate the general impression is that the Chinook gets its warmth from the Japan current in the Pacific, which also gives the Pacific coast its mild temperature.

* * *

But we are still stymied when we try to figure out how the Chinook, blowing to Lethbridge over the Rockies at a height of 10,000 to 15,000 feet — Mount Cleveland in Glacier National Park, directly southwest of Lethbridge, is 11,000 feet—still comes to earth on a 40-below day as a warm wind. It isn't in the physics books.

Russell H Bennett, of the Shoderee Ranch on the Waterton river frings of Waterton National Park, an engineer by profession and a rancher by choice, tells us in his book, "The Compleat Rancher," that the Cinook gets its warmth by the mass of air being forced in from the southwest and being compressed between cold air masses around it and, pushed by the weight of the weather mass which started it over the mountains, becoming warm by friction, so that it comes down from the mountain peaks in a heated state.

His explanation looks as logical as that of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, at least. At any rate we have often seen the Chinook reach Cardston or Pincher Creek, there to run u pagainst an immovable mass of frigid air, and hang along that front for hours on end, 40 degrees above on the western side, 40 below on the eastern side, and neither side apparently able to win out in the battle. And airmen have told us, too, of going up from Lethbridge airport during a sub-zero day on the ground and finding the Chinook 40 above at 2,000 feet—which may or may not be what the physics teachers taught us.

At any rate, we're in the Chinook belt which brings us Spring on occasion in the middle of Winter. Perhaps we shouldn't worry so much about the physics of it—let the weather man do the worrying.

Smokeless Logs from Powdered Coal

A process for making a new type of smokeless fuel from Western soft coal is now being tested in Salt Lake City. The New York Times reports. If it fulfils expectations, the smoke nuisance can be eliminated. K. L. Storrs is the inventor of the process. He passes finely divided coal continuously through a vibrating heated horizontal retort. At a temperature of about 500 degrees centigrade the coal becomes semi-plastic, so that it can be compressed and extruded in the form of long, hard "logs" about two inches in diameter. Only three minutes are required to convert the powdered coal into smokeless logs ready to use in stoves, furnaces or open fireplaces. The chemical by-products are recovered during the heating process. By a relatively simple modification of this process a coke can be obtained that would be especially useful in practically all metallurgical industries.

'Gossip' Defined

Definition of gossip: "A form of winter sport which can be played by any number of persons from two upwards. It can be greatly enjoyed by those participating in it without regard or thought for the suffering of perhaps innocent victims."

The definition was given by Sir James Andrews, Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, in court recently.

YOUNG CRIPPLED BOY IS CAMPAIGN SYMBOL

Meet "Timmy," 9-year old Oshawa lad who has been selected to be the living symbol for the Ontario Society for Crippled Children campaign which is being held throughout the province March 19 to April 5. "Timmy," shown here playing with his inseparable companion, Lassie, is one of scores of similarly handicapped youngsters aided by the Society through its medical aid, nursing service, orthopaedic appliances and summer camps. To raise funds to continue this work, now in its twenty-fifth year, forty million brightly colored Easter Seals are being distributed across Ontario.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

Egyptians Surprised

Heavily-taxed Egyptians have been dismayed to learn that when on the departure of the British they have to undertake their own defence it will add the equivalent of a quarter of a billion dollars to their national expenditure.

—Ottawa Citizen

Enterprise Revival

Collective farmers in the Soviet Union henceforth are to get "payment by results," instead of "a standard payment equal for all." Sounds rather like a revival of private enterprise!

—Ottawa Journal

Rat Hunt

This was a Government reply to a question from the opposition in the British House of Commons the other day:

"The total number of people employed in the rat-catching department of the Ministry of Food is 298 and the cost is $540,000; 194 of these people are engaged in administrative and clerical work and 104 are catching rats."

—Hamilton Spectator.

Their Own Fault

Bears in the Moose Jaw game preserve haven't slept at all this winter, and officials don't know why. Maybe they ate before they went to bed. It often has that effect, you know.

—Ottawa Citizen.

A Quaker's Warning

A Quaker investigated a strange noise in the night and found a burglar ransacking a room. He took his fowling piece and called down from the stair landing.

"I would do thee no harm for all the world, friend, but thee standest where I am about to shoot."

—This Month.

Democratic Procedure

An opposition party member in the Phillippines is under arrest for tossing a hand grenade at President Manuel Roxas, because he didn't like his policies. Over here the oppositionists throw a motion of non-confidence, followed by a couple of amendments.

—Windsor Star.

Understatement

Among all the shining examples of understatement, Britons nowadays would probably give top place to the word "austerity."

—Vancouver Province.

Worst Yet to Come

British airborne troops are being detailed to put down rioting in the Punjab. What would the people of India have done had the British troops withdrawn months ago? What will they do when the British troops eventually shake the dust of India from their feet a couple of years hence?

—Brantford Expositor.

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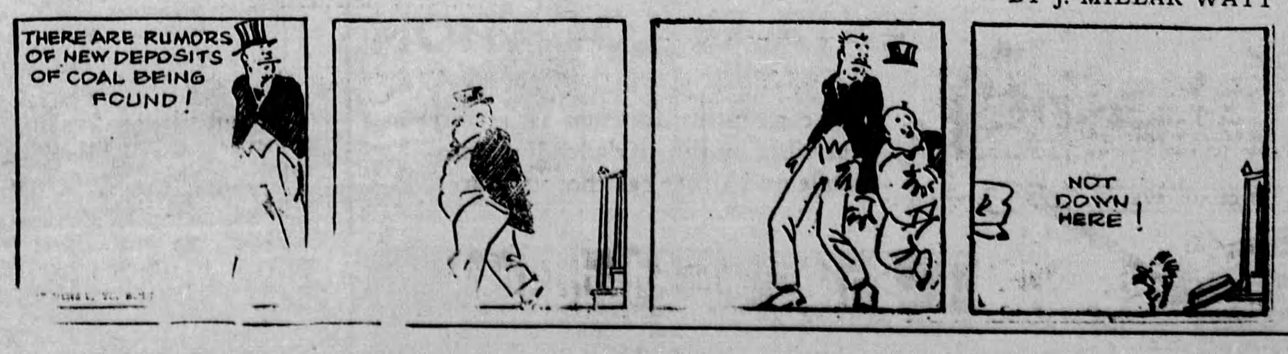
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